

Message Text

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TAGS: CVIS UR US SREF (BUKHARSKY, BORIS)

SUBJECT: VISAS: IV: BORIS BURKHARSKY

FOR EUR/SOV AND VO

REF: MOSCOW 15555

1. EMBASSY PROCESSING FOLLOWING JEWISH IMMIGRANT CASE AND REQUESTS DEPT CONCURRENCE IN FINDING OF INVOLUNTARINESS UNDER INA SECTION 212(A)(28)(I)(SMALL I) FOR PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP IN SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY (CPSU).

2. SUBJECT, MR. BORIS BUKHARSKY DPOB 5 JUNE 1928 NOVESELITSA CHERNOVTSY OBLAST FORMER ROMANIA, WISHES IMMIGRATE ALONG WITH WIFE MIRA TO HIS ONLY LIVING RELATIVE, US CITIZEN BROTHER, WILLIAM JACK MASON, 6784 EAST CEDAR AVENUE, APT 701, DENVER, COLORADO. EMBASSY HAS FIFTH PREFERENCE PETITION APPROVED BY INS DENVER OFFICE DEC 4, 1972. BUKHARSKYS ON USG REPRESENTATION LIST XV AND RECEIVED EXIT PERMISSION FROM LOCAL (CHERNOVTSY, UKRAINE) OVIR OFFICE DEC 13 ONLY AFTER SEVERAL APPEALS TO CPSU GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV AND USSR MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND FOLLOWING REPEATED INTERVENTIONS VIS-A-VIS SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON BY SENATOR DOMINICK AND CONGRESSWOMAN SCHROEDER, AS WELL AS BY US SPONSOR/BROTHER.

3. SUBJECT STATED IN DETAILED INTERVIEW WITH CONSOFF DEC 16
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THAT HE JOINED CPSU IN 1961 AND THAT MOTIVATION IN DOING SO WAS ECONOMIC NOT RPT NOT POLITICAL OR IDEOLOGICAL. HE SAID THAT UNDERSTANDING OF HIS BACKGROUND IS ESSENTIAL IN THIS REGARD. SUBJECT SAID HIS FATHER, SOLOMON BUCAREST,

IMMIGRATED TO US FROM ROMANIA 1928 AND WAS NATURALIZED OCT 2, 1933. (HE SHOWED COPY OF NATURALIZATION CERTIFICATE.) FATHER RESIDED US FOR REMAINDER HIS LIFE AND DIED NYC 1953. SUBJECT'S ONLY SIBLING, US SPONSOR/BROTHER CITED PARA 2 ABOVE, IMMIGRATED TO FATHER IN 1936. SUBJECT, WHO WAS YOUNGER, REMAINED IN ROMANIA WITH HIS MOTHER, WHO INTENDED PROCEED US WITH HIM IN 1940. WAR AND FASCIST OCCUPATION INTERVENED, HOWEVER, AND, AS JEWS, SUBJECT AND HIS MOTHER WERE SENT TO CONCENTRATION CAMP MAINTAINED BY GERMAN AND ROMANIAN TROOPS NEAR VINNITSA, ROMANIA (ALSO NOW IN SOVIET UKRAINE). SUBJECT STATED THAT IN 1942, WHEN HE WAS 14, HE SAW HIS MOTHER SHOT BY CAMP GUARDS, LEAVING HIM WITH NO OTHER RELATIVES IN EUROPE. HE SAID HE SUBSEQUENTLY ESCAPED BY CRAWLING UNDER CAMP FENCE AND WAS SHELTERED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BY LOCAL PEASANTS (TO WHOM HE SAID HE DID NOT INDICATE THAT HE IS JEWISH). IN LATE 1943, HE VOLUNTEERED TO SERVE ON FRONT WITH SOVIET FORCES.

4. SUBJECT STATED THAT HE WAS DEMOBILIZED AT END OF 1945 AND WORKED FOR SEVEN YEARS IN HOME AREA, WHICH HAD BECOME PART OF SOVIET UKRAINE, AS CHAUFFEUR AND AS TECHNICIAN IN FILM INDUSTRY, WITH SALARY OF 40-50 RUBLES PER MONTH. HE MARRIED IN 1952. IN 1957, HE BECAME "FILM MASTER MECHANIC" AND HIS SALARY WAS INCREASED TO 85 RUBLES PER MONTH. SUBJECT STATED THAT HIS POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER ADVANCEMENT WERE SEVERELY LIMITED, HOWEVER, BY HIS POOR EDUCATION (HAVING COMPLETED ONLY SIX GRADES) AND BY FACT THAT HE WAS JEW IN AREA OF ENDEMIC ANTI-SEMITISM. HE DECIDED, THEREFORE, TO ATTEMPT IMPROVE HIS SITUATION BY COMPLETING SECONDARY SCHOOL, WHICH HE ACCOMPLISHED IN 1961. ACCORDING TO SUBJECT, IT WAS AT THAT TIME THAT HE WAS ADVISED TO JOIN CPSU; HE SAID HE WAS BLUNTLY INFORMED BY LOCAL PARTY OFFICIALS THAT OTHERWISE HE WOULD NOT RECEIVE NECESSARY "SILVER MEDAL" FROM SECONDARY SCHOOL REQUIRED FOR ACCEPTANCE TO INSTITUTES OF HIGHER EDUCATION. SUBJECT STATED THAT HE THEREFORE JOINED CPSU AND WAS PROMPTLY ACCEPTED IN NIGHT SCHOOL PROGRAM OF L'VOV POLYTECHNICAL INSTITUTE. SIMULTANEOUSLY, ACCORDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBJECT, HE WAS PROMOTED TO STATUS OF "SENIOR MASTER FOR REPAIR OF FILM EQUIPMENT," WITH ATTENDANT PAY INCREASE TO 125 RUBLES PER MONTH. IN 1964, FOLLOWING THIRD YEAR OF NIGHT STUDY, HE WAS GIVEN EMPLOYMENT AS LECTURER IN A CHERNOVTSY TECHNICAL SCHOOL, AND THIS BROUGHT FURTHER INCREASE IN SALARY TO 160 RUBLES PER MONTH. FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF INSTITUTE PROGRAM, SUBJECT SAID HE RECEIVED JOB AS WORK SUPERINTENDENT AT SELELETRA FIRM IN CHERNOVTSY, WITH SALARY OF 200 RUBLES PER MONTH. SUBJECT EXPRESSED FIRM CONVICTION THAT NEITHER HIGHER EDUCATION NOR THESE JOB ADVANCEMENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN OPENED TO HIM HAD HE REFUSED JOIN CPSU WHEN ADVISED TO DO SO IN 1961. SUBJECT STATED, HOWEVER,

THAT HE HELD NO RPT NO LEADERSHIP POSITION IN CPSU, NOR WAS HE OTHERWISE ACTIVE IN PARTY AFFAIRS.

5. SUBJECT STATED THAT HE LOST CONTACT WITH FATHER AND BROTHER IN US IN 1938 AND RELOCATED BROTHER IN MARCH 1972 THROUGH ACQUAINTANCES WHO EMIGRATED TO US. BROTHER VISITED HIM IN USSR IN MAY 1972 AND INVITED HIM IMMIGRATE TO US. SUBJECT STATED THAT UPON RECEIVING FORMAL INVITATION ("VYZOV") FROM BROTHER WHICH IS REQUIRED BY SOVIET PASSPORT AUTHORITIES, HE ASKED HIS FIRM (SELELETRA) IN DEC 1972 FOR REQUIRED PERSONAL REFERENCE ("KHARAKTERISTIKA") WHICH ALSO MUST BE SUBMITTED AS PART OF APPLICATION FOR EXIT PERMISSION. ACCORDING SUBJECT, HE WAS PROMPTLY EXPELLED FROM CPSU AT THAT POINT AND THE FIRM'S PARTY SECRETARY PREPARED OFFICIAL PROTOCOL ON THE EXPULSION WHICH DESCRIBED SUBJECT AS TRAITOR ("IZMENIK RODINI"). ONCE HE HAD COLLECTED REQUIRED DOCUMENTS AND SUBMITTED EXIT APPLICATION (FEBRUARY 13, 1973), SUBJECT WAS IMMEDIATELY FIRED FROM HIS JOB. SUBJECT STATED THAT HE REGULARLY SOUGHT OTHER EMPLOYMENT DURING TEN-MONTH PERIOD PRIOR TO GRANTING OF EXIT PERMISSION, BUT THAT NO FIRM WISHED EMPLOYEE INTENDED EMIGRANT.

6. COMMENT: STRONG ECONOMIC PRESSURE WHICH LED TO SUBJECT JOINING CPSU ARE VERY SIMILAR TO THOSE ENCOUNTERED BY NUMEROUS OTHER SOVIET JEWS, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF ENDEMIC ANTI-SEMITISM SUCH AS MOLDAVIA AND WESTERN UKRAINE. THIS CASE IS HIGHLY SIMILAR TO THREE EARLIER CASES OF JEWISH EMIGRANTS TO FAMILY MEMBERS IN US, IN WHICH DEPT RULED THAT CPSU MEMBERSHIP RESULTING FROM SUCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ECONOMIC AND NATIONALITY PRESSURES MET PROVISIONS OF INVOLUNTARINESS UNDER INA SECTION 212(A)(2)(I)(SMALL I). THESE CASES WERE THOSE OF MRS. RAISA CHUGUNOVA (MOSCOW 12990, STATE 210198); ISAK BERKOVITCH (MOSCOW 10247, STATE 173739); AND VLADIMIR SHAPIRO (MOSCOW 5128, STATE 088548). LARGE NUMBER JEWISH AND OTHER EMIGRANTS FROM USSR HAVE ALSO REPORTED TO US AND OTHER WESTERN CONSOFFS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN LABELLED "TRAITORS" IMMEDIATELY UPON APPLYING FOR EXIT PERMISSION; THE FORMAL PROTOCOL SO IDENTIFYING SUBJECT THIS CASE (PARA 5 ABOVE) WAS IDENTICAL TO THAT DRAWN UP IN CHUGUNOVA CASE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT CONCURRENCE THAT SUBJECT ELIGIBLE FOR RELIEF UNDER SECTION 212(A)(28)(I)(SMALL I). EMBASSY FINDING IN THIS REGARD BASED ON FACT THAT: A) THERE IS NO RPT NO REASON DOUBT T SUBJECT'S DETAILED STATEMENT THAT HIS FORMER CPSU MEMBERSHIP WAS BASED EXCLUSIVELY ON COMPELLING ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS AND THAT HE HELD NO LEADERSHIP POSITION IN CPSU; AND B) HIS STATEMENT IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH PRESSURES ENCOUNTERED BY OTHER JEWISH

EMIGRANTS FROM USSR. (FYI: EMBASSY HAD PREVIOUS
EXPERIENCE WITH OFFICIAL ANTI-SEMITIC PRESSURES IN
CHERNOVTSY IN CASES OF ZONIS AND OTHER FAMILIES WHO
WERE OBLIGED RENOUNCE SOVIET CITIZENSHIP AND PAY LOCAL
OVIR OFFICE 500 RUBLE PER PERSON RENUNCIATION FEE IN
ADDITION TO 400 RUBLE "PASSPORT" FEE--MOSCOW 6648 AND
PREVIOUS.) EMBASSY ALSO REQUESTS VISAS EAGLE CLEARANCE
FOR MR. AND MRS. BUKHARKSY IN RESPONSE MOSCOW 15556.
TELEGRAPHIC REPLY APPREICATED SOONEST IN VIEW LIMITED
VALIDITY THEIR SOVIET EXIT DOCUMENTATION.
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